

Julius Klein Has More Friends . . .

STATINTL

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WASHINGTON, July 16—Back in 1963 Senator Thomas J. Dodd went to Chicago at the request of his friend Julius Klein, head of a public relations firm, to address an Italian-American dinner. Midway in the speech, Mr. Klein, who was sitting beside the Senator, tugged at Mr. Dodd's coat and, in a loud whisper, said:

"Say something nice about me, Tom."

Next Tuesday Mr. Klein will appear before the Senate Ethics Committee which is inquiring into—among other things—his relationship with the Connecticut Democrat.

What Did Dodd Do?

What the committee particularly wants to know is whether Senator Dodd, on a trip to Germany in April, 1964, said "the nice things" about Mr. Klein to West German officials that Mr. Klein asked him to say in urgent letters, telegrams and "briefing

memos" which have been placed in evidence.

Mr. Klein asked Mr. Dodd to say these nice things because as a result of the Foreign Relations Committee's investigation into registered foreign agents in 1963, several West German firms had canceled contracts with Mr. Klein worth \$200,000 a year, and he feared he might also lose a \$150,000 annual contract with the Society for German-American Cooperation of Wiesbaden, an organization subsidized by the West German Government.

Mr. Dodd has testified that he went to Germany "for the sole purpose" of interviewing a self-confessed assassin of the Soviet intelligence apparatus; that he took the occasion to say nice things about Mr. Klein in a conversation with former Chancellor Konrad Adenauer when "Der Alte" asked him about Mr. Klein, but that he did not mention Mr. Klein in his talks with other German officials.

Whether Mr. Klein will throw much light on the subject depends on the committee's ability to keep him to it, and anybody who has ever tried to elicit a coherent, consecutive story from Mr. Klein would not want to bet on it. In 1963, Mr. Klein demonstrated that he can throw a Senate committee into confusion faster than he can drop a name—which is very fast, indeed.

Mr. Klein—he prefers to be called General Klein because he is a retired major general in the Illinois National Guard—is not simply a name-dropper *sanspareil*. He is also a picture-hanger without rival.

On the wall of Mr. Klein's Chicago office hangs a framed copy of the first verse of the 27th chapter of Proverbs:

"Let another man praise thee and not thine own mouth;

"A stranger and not thine own lips."

Mr. Klein has followed this injunction by covering the walls of his Chicago office (and also, his New York office and his apartment) with inscribed pictures of notables who have known him—Presidents Herbert Hoover and Dwight Eisenhower, Generals Douglas MacArthur and Omar Bradley, Admirals Chester Nimitz and William Halsey, Vice Presidents Richard Nixon and Hubert Humphrey, and Senators Everett Dirksen, Jacob Javits and the late

Styles Bridges, and dozens of others.

Mr. Klein explains the absence of Adlai E. Stevenson's picture by saying, "He was an appeaser."

In 1951, Brig. Gen. Klein was ordered by the state guard commander, Maj. Gen. Harry L. Bolen, to keep silent after he had said "The Kremlin will fire a 21-gun salute when it hears of MacArthur's dismissal." General Klein protested to Governor Stevenson, who told him he was surprised that a general would quarrel publicly "with his superior officer," adding "I trust this letter will conclude the incident, as I am very busy with important matters."

Military Decoration

Mr. Klein was born in Chicago in 1901; was educated in Berlin where his father was a fur merchant and financier; returned to Chicago after the United States entered World War I; was a crime reporter for the Hearst Herald and Examiner in the 1920's; did a five-year stint as story editor in Hollywood; entered active military service in 1941 and commanded a truck regiment in the South Pacific and the Philippines, receiving the Soldier's Medal for heroism in directing rescue work after a dock explosion in Noumea, New Caledonia.

In 1947, he was elected to a one-year term as national commander of the Jewish War Veterans and set up his public relations firm. As he picked up German clients and became friends with leaders in German industry and government, he became a controversial figure in the Jewish community in this country.

He was criticized for his close relationship with Herman J. Abs, head of the Deutsche Bank, who was a financial adviser to the Hitler regime. Abs was the leader in the campaign of German bankers and industrialists to persuade the Eisenhower Administration to return \$600-million of assets seized in the United States during the war. Mr. Klein testified in favor of return before a Senate committee, and later he was engaged to represent the Society for the Protection of Foreign Investments, in which Abs was the dominant figure.

Mr. Klein contends this organization did not concern itself with the return of assets but only the "sanctity" of foreign-owned private property in any future war. In view of Abs's role in the cam-

paign for return, this argument was viewed skeptically.

The contract with the Society for German-American Cooperation was secured through Mr. Klein's close ties with Chancellor Adenauer and his principal aide, Dr. Hans Globke, whom Mr. Klein has described as one of "my most trusted friends." Mr. Globke, an official in the Interior Ministry in the Hitler regime, was the interpreter of the Nuremberg racial laws.

Mr. Klein, however, insists that Mr. Globke, a Catholic, was "a confidant of the Vatican" and "did all that he could to save (Jewish) lives in Germany" and helped "the underground during Hitler's reign."

Mr. Klein has said, furthermore, that he worked closely with Mr. Globke because, as Mr. Adenauer's closest adviser, Mr. Globke played a principal role in the negotiations over reparations to Israel and compensation to families of murdered Jews.

Extremely Useful

Senator Javits gives support to this contention. He reports that when he talked to the then Premier David Ben-Gurion in Israel, Mr. Ben-Gurion told him Mr. Klein has been extremely useful because of his connections with Mr. Adenauer and Mr. Globke.

If Mr. Klein has his detractors, he has his admirers and supporters. In 1962, Hubert Humphrey said: "Julius Klein has more friends in the Senate and the House of Representatives than any man I know."

Mr. Klein makes no bones about that fact that he distributes political largesse widely and—for a Taft Republican—even-handedly. During the 1963 hearings into foreign agents, he was asked by Senator Albert Gore: "How many tables to how many dinners do you buy in the course of a year?" The general replied: "Senator, a lot of them."

Mr. Klein insists, however, that he does this as a citizen and because of his interest in politics. (He was an unsuccessful candidate for Congressman and for a Senatorial nomination). In the 1963 hearings he said:

"I have never asked a Senator—I think the last man I would ask for a favor are those Senators that I contribute to."

In view of the correspondence in the hands of the Ethics Committee, this statement is now regarded as somewhat exaggerated.